



Golden Voices of Montserrat

INTERNATIONAL CHOIR FESTIVAL & CONTEST

This contest invites for the participation: Choirs and Vocal Ensembles

Spain, Montserrat-Costa Brava

2026	2027	2028
March 26 — 30	April 02 — 06	March 31 — April 04

International choir contest “**GOLDEN VOICES OF MONTSERRAT**” – is one of the biggest international choir competitive festivals in the world for professional and amateur non-profit choirs. Each year, the festival attracts a large number of choirs and transforms the Spanish coast of Costa Brava into the hub of the singing world.

⚠ We give our priority to learning and sharing experiences. At this contest a big attention is paid to the educational program. The event includes master classes, workshops, rehearsals of joint numbers with foreign specialists with world names, whom we invite to upgrade the skills of the contestants and additional qualification of teachers. Teachers who have completed the master classes receive a certificate on a stamped paper of the Kingdom of Spain with individual numbers.

In addition to the professional competition, choirs have the opportunity to perform in **the basilica of the Montserrat monastic complex**, alongside the world-famous choir of boys, “**Escolania**”. The contestants are evaluated by a professional international **jury** according to expert evaluation criteria.

If you want to participate in the choir vocal competition but don't have the means, then hurry to **search for sponsors** in your region. Such an opportunity may come once in a lifetime. You can experience the highest level of European choral singing culture at the festival-competition organized by the Fiestalonia Milenio team.

All of our programs consist of two parts:

There are two options for participating in "**GOLDEN VOICES OF MONTSERRAT**":

1. Competitive Participation: This option allows choirs to take part in the competitive segment of the competition, where they will be evaluated by the jury, compete with other choirs, and have a chance to win awards and recognition.

2. Non-Competitive Participation: In this option, choirs can participate in all concerts and events without being part of the competitive aspect. They will still receive diplomas of participation and recommendations from the jury members.

6 reasons why you need participate in choir contest

60 participating countries	Official awards and prizes	International jury
The possibility of travel	International dating	Vacations on the Mediterranean Sea

CATEGORIES:

A. CHILDREN'S CHOIRS and YOUTH CHOIRS.

The performance program may be of the choir's choice and should include at least two different musical styles or time periods. At least one of the pieces must be performed a cappella (without instrumental accompaniment).

A1 CHILDREN'S CHOIRS	Age groups: 7-16 Singing time: maximum 15 minutes Minimum Number of Singers -16
A2 – YOUTH CHOIRS OF EQUAL VOICES	Age groups: 16-25 Singing time: maximum 15 minutes Minimum Number of Singers -16
A3 –YOUTH CHOIRS OF MIXED VOICES	Age groups: 16-25 Singing time: maximum 15 minutes Minimum Number of Singers -16

B. Vocal Ensembles and Chamber Choirs.

The performance program may be of the choir's choice and should include at least two different musical styles or time periods. At least one of the pieces must be performed a cappella (without instrumental accompaniment).

Age groups:

1st - 7-10 years old

2nd 11-14 years old

3rd 15-18 years old

4th 18-25 years old

5th above 25 years old

6th Mixed Age Group (participants from various age categories)

Singing time: maximum 15 minutes

Minimum Number of Singers - 3

Maximum Number of Singers - 16

C. Adult Choirs. The performance program may be of the choir's choice and should include at least two different musical styles or time periods. At least one of the pieces must be performed a cappella (without instrumental accompaniment).

C1 - Female Choirs	Age groups: 18 and over Singing time: maximum 15 minutes Minimum Number of Singers -17
C2 - Male Choirs	Age groups: 18 and over Singing time: maximum 15 minutes Minimum Number of Singers -17
C3 - Mixed Choirs	Age groups: 18 and over Singing time: maximum 15 minutes Minimum Number of Singers -17

D. World Sacred Music. Participants can present choral arrangements and ritual music from Christian Catholic, Orthodox, Protestant, Islamic, Buddhist, Jewish, Hindu, Sikh, and many other traditions. This may also include religious melodies and hymns, prayers, spiritual songs, and ceremonial music.

The performance program may be of the choir's choice.

Age groups: no age restrictions

Singing time: maximum 15 minutes

Number of Singers no restrictions

- E. Folklore. Ensembles perform a folklore program. Corresponding choreography and stage performance are also possible. It is advisable to sing in traditional costumes. If there is no musical notation, please prepare a brief description of the program in English. The performance program can be chosen by the choir.**

The performance program may be of the choir's choice.

Age groups: no age restrictions

Singing time: maximum 15 minutes

Number of Singers no restrictions

- F. Pop – jazz – gospel. The performance program may be of the choir's choice.**

Performances may include pieces with instrumental accompaniment, phonograms or a cappella

Age groups: no age restrictions

Singing time: maximum 15 minutes

Number of Singers no restrictions

- G. Academic Singing.**

Participants may present works from the classical repertoire, including opera, operetta, arias, etc. At least one of the pieces must be performed a cappella (without instrumental accompaniment).

Age groups:

2nd 11-14 years old

3rd 15-18 years old

4th 18-25 years old

5th above 25 years old

6th Mixed Age Group (participants from various age categories)

Singing time: maximum 15 minutes

Number of Singers no restrictions

TERMS OF PARTICIPATION

Competition performance

1) The competition takes place at the Municipal Theatre of Lloret de Mar.

2) For performances, the organizer provides a Yamaha Arius YDP 143 piano with 88 keys and two organ functions. Additionally, a grand piano is available (subject to availability on the day of the competition). The organizer can also provide 6 Condenser microphones, 4 Wireless microphones, and 2 Headset microphones.

If the choir requires any additional equipment, musical instruments, or anything else, they must bring it with them or request it from the organizing committee for an additional fee.

3) SINGING TIME: In all categories, the time limit for clean singing is 15 minutes (minimum 7 minutes). This does not include applause and stage time. The exact duration of each piece must be correctly indicated on the Program Confirmation form that we will send you 30 days before the contest.

4) In those categories where a phonogram is used for performances, please send the phonogram in MP3 format to the specified e-mail address together with the confirmation form.

5) Please ensure you bring 5 copies of the sheet music for each musical composition to be performed. Scores without titles or composer names printed in the Roman alphabet must have a transcription in Roman characters

One copy of the score will be retained by the organizer after the competition. The remaining scores can be collected from the organizer after the awards ceremony.

Each participating choir is responsible for respecting copyright and performance rights for the songs during the competition. The use of unauthorized or reproduced copies is strictly prohibited.

Performance in Montserrat

1. Only choirs preparing a single a cappella musical composition are permitted to perform in Montserrat.

2. All girls and women must ensure their shoulders are covered while performing at the Montserrat monastery.

3. Repertoire for performances in the Basilica of Montserrat must be appropriate for the venue.

4. Participation in the concert is optional; participants may choose not to perform in the Montserrat concert. However, they are welcome to join the Montserrat tour, participate in group photos with all choirs, and attend the concert.

AGREEMENT: With the application, all participating choirs agree to photography, recordings and broadcasts in sound or television as well as any other recordings made in conjunction with the contest **“GOLDEN VOICES OF MONTSERRAT”**.

JURY and JUDGING CRITERIA:

The jury of the contest is formed of the most important cultural workers of Spain, France, Canada and other countries of the Eastern Europe and Asia. International jury is formed by the contest's providers.

The jury has the right:

- not to award all the prizes;

- to share prize among performers;
- to award special prizes to teachers for outstanding achievements;
- to make a decision about breaking a performance which exceeds the bounds of the regulations;
- the jury evaluates the participants on one-hundred-point system, the final result is made up of the average quantity of the received scores and the average value of the progress scores;
- the jury's decisions are final and are not subject to review.

Judging criteria

1-Technical Proficiency: This criterion assesses the quality of performance, pitch accuracy, intonation, diction, rhythmic precision, breath control, and other technical aspects.

2-Interpretation: It evaluates the choir's ability to convey emotions and ideas of the musical composition, expressiveness, artistry, depth, and insight into the musical work.

3-Musicianship: This criterion focuses on the choir's musical understanding and expressiveness, their ability to work in unity, maintain tempo and dynamics, and use dynamic nuances effectively.

4-Repertoire: The evaluation includes the selection and diversity of musical repertoire, the complexity of the pieces chosen, and how well the choir adapts to different styles and genres.

5-Ensemble Interaction: This criterion assesses the unity and coordination of the choir during performance, their ability to listen to each other, synchronize movements, and interact with the conductor.

6-Accuracy of Interpretation: It evaluates how well the choir follows the provided scores and accurately interprets the musical notations.

7-Overall Impression: It encompasses the overall assessment of the choir's performance, their level of professionalism, originality, and uniqueness.

AWARDS:

The jury evaluates the participants on 100-point scale.

Regarding the genres of performing and categories the awards are distributed due to seven age groups

- participants who received up to 70 points become diploma holders;
- participants who received from 70 to 79 points – laureates of the third degree;

- participants who received from 80 to 89 points become laureates of the second degree;
 - participants who received from 90 to 99 points become laureates of the first degree;
 - participants who received 100 points become winners of the grand prize of the contest “**GOLDEN VOICES OF MONTSERRAT**”.
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- Grand Prix winners receive a big cup and diplomas (one per group/category);
 - First place winners receive a standard trophy and diplomas (one per group/category);
 - Second and third place winners receive diplomas (one per group/category);
 - All contestants receive diplomas with their results (one per group/category).

Each leader and sponsor will be given a personalized thank-you letter on the official numbered letterhead of the kingdom of Spain.

Special trophy cups are provided for the winners.

Each contestant in the group can request a personal diploma and medal for an additional fee (before the competition).

PROGRAM OF STAY:

1st day:

- check-in to a hotel from 14:00 pm;
- meeting with the organizers of the contest;
- presentation of the excursion programs;
- dinner;

2nd day:

- breakfast;
- lunch (if you have ordered this option for an additional cost);
- rehearsal;
- beginning of the contest concert;
- dinner.

3rd day:

- breakfast;
- travel to the Basilica of a Monastic complex of Montserrat (for an additional price);
- Performance at the Basilica of Montserrat for the thousands of viewers and visitors;
- Return to the hotel;

- dinner;
- possibility to visit flamenco show with wine, sangria, cava and drinks (for additional fee).

4th day:

- breakfast;
- possible organization of friendly concerts and master classes;
- lunch (if you have ordered this option for an additional cost);
- Dinner at the hotel;
- Gala concert and Awarding ceremony.

5th day:

- breakfast;
- check out from the hotel before 10:00.

■ **ATTENTION!** Organizers have opportunity to modify the program.

■ **ATTENTION!** We can provide you with a transfer from airports and train stations to the hotel and back. Ask our managers for the price: info@fiestalonía.net

■ **ATTENTION!** The program of competition is intense, so take 2-3 extra days for excursions to see everything.

■ **INCREASE the number of days of your stay** and we will organize an excellent excursion program for you! The price of additional days is indicated in the “price” section. For detailed information on excursion programs, you can check with our managers by mail: info@fiestalonía.net

■ **BOOK an excursion program** in advance, ask our managers for details about our excursion offer: info@fiestalonía.net

* If you have ordered lunch at the hotel and you don't attend due to excursions, or concerts, please order a 'Picnic' (dry ration) at the hotel reception 24 hours in advance that you can take with you in the box.

THE PACKAGE PRICE INCLUDES:

- 5 days and 4 nights in a three-star hotel or in four-star hotel;
- Half board, buffet (breakfast, dinner + drinks; lunches for additional price – cost €6,60 for children under 12 years old, €9,90 from 12 years old);
- competitive viewing, performance of choirs in Montserrat optional* (transfer and excursion for additional price), Gala Concert with award ceremony;

- diplomas from the contest providers (one per group/category);
- special thank-you certificates in the form of engraving on a special base from the town authorities (for groups of 5 people and more);
- thank-you letters for conductors and sponsors on the official numbered letterheads of the kingdom of Spain (included 2 letters);
- Consolidated rehearsals of choirs with foreign choirmasters;
- Master classes;
- festival fee;
- preparation of invitation documents for visa;
- Live streaming of the Gala concert on YouTube.

Subscribe to watch the events in the stream:

https://www.youtube.com/@fiestalonialive?sub_confirmation=1

PERFORMANCE IN MONTSERRAT

*Participants who want to perform at Montserrat pay for the transfer to the place of performance, which also includes an excursion - 42 euros per person

ADDITIONAL FEES

- For participation in the additional nomination of groups - an additional fee of 295 euros per group.

ADDITIONAL SERVICES

***Each contestant can request a named diploma and medal for 14 euros (before the competition, is given during the award ceremony). This option is ordered by up to 90% of all participants.**

***Additional letters of appreciation on a numbered State Emblem paper of the Kingdom of Spain can be requested for 10 euros (before the competition). This option is ordered by up to 80% of all participants.**

***Add excursions to your stay (this option is ordered by up to 90% of all participants).**

***You can order a personalized written commentary from the jury 70 euros/per performance (before the competition).**

***Those who come to Spain, can supplement their stay package with lunches in the hotel (buffet).**

**For persons under 12 years old the cost of lunch is 6,60 euros.
For persons over 12 years old the cost of lunch is 9,90 euros.**

***Services of a professional photographer and cameraman , your personal video clip at the contest (prices to be specified).**

FREE PLACES

Each 25th group's participant gets a pack of our services for free!*

Attention: We can provide you with a transfer from airports and train stations to the hotel and back. Ask our managers for the price: info@fiestalonía.net

Attention: Check out from the hotel until 10:00.

Additional services:

- Original pictures from the contest, Gala concert and the Award ceremony;
- Photo services during the trips/excursions. Photoshoots for groups;
- Concertmaster;
- Master classes from the Spanish art workers;
- Assisting Translator (accompanying person);
- Video shooting of a contest/Gala concert.

Additional Travel services

- Airport transfers to the hotel or any transportation services.
- Hotel reservation in Barcelona

Excursions

- Barcelona city sightseeing tour + The Spanish Village or Aquarium
- Montserrat
- Girona + museum of Salvador Dali
- Port Aventura - entertainment Park complex
- Tossa de Mar (city-fortress)!
- Flamenco show with dinner and drinks

*All the extra services are provided on demand. They should be requested minimum 3 days before the beginning of the contest. The prices of the extra services are to be specified from our managers.

Extra trips

-Trip to the French Riviera for 2 nights with an overnight stay in Nice. Costa Brava (Spain) – Cannes (France) – Nice (France) – Monte Carlo (Monaco).

*For details and pricing, please contact our managers via email at info@fiestalonja.net

FEATURES OF THIS FESTIVAL&CONTEST:

Why is it worth participating in this contest

- one of the biggest choir's event;
- not just rare, but the only opportunity to perform in the most famous Catholic church in Europe in the basilica of the Montserrat monastery. Now this is real!;
- participation in competitions of this magnitude – a great motivation to develop talents and improve themselves;
- bright opening and closing ceremonies;
- evaluation system, which guarantees the highest quality of judging;
- Half board (buffet: breakfast, dinner + drinks);
- official international diplomas with the results of the contest (one per group/category);
- team leaders and sponsors are given personalized thank-you letters on the official numbered letterhead of the kingdom of Spain;
- possibility of solo performances.

PERIOD OF ACCEPTING THE APPLICATIONS

- the last day of receiving of the applications is for 30 days before the beginning of the festival;
- the last day of payment is for 21 days before the beginning of the festival;
- terms and conditions of the agreement are to be requested from our managers.

**Ask for the price by email: info@fiestalonía.net or by phone
(WhatsApp, Telegram): +34 688 276 248**

THE APPLICATION CAN BE FILLED OUT AT THE LINK:

<https://fiestalonía.net/fest/gvm-en/>